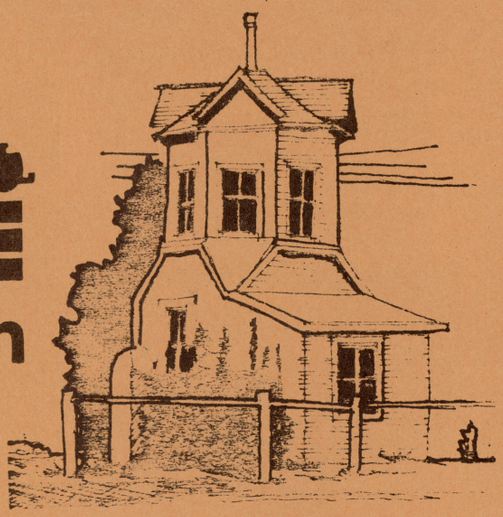
Depot Town Association, Inc.

Next regular meeting:
Thursday, 16 April 1981,
7:30 p.m. in the Caboose

depot town



Signal House, c. 1892

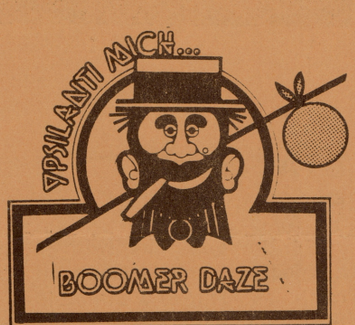
Depot Town Retail Merchants on Right Track

Organized in mid-winter, this new activist group of the DTA meets on the second Thursday of each month in the Caboose at 7:30 p.m. After electing Paul Fetters of **River Art Works** as their leader, their initial projects have been ambitious and they welcome any businesses in the block to join their caboosterism:

- **WAAM CONTRACT:** Retail merchants have contracted with a local radio station for week-long spot announcements and the placement of WAAM's flashy new mobile unit on the block for the May 30th Boomer Daze kickoff.
- **BOOMER PASSPORTS:** The retail merchants have improved upon last year's concept and have borrowed some of the better ideas from Detroit's Metro Passbook. From 36-48 discount coupons are included, as well as a Boomer-style Mulligan Stew. Coupons are redeemable throughout the summer: from Boomer Daze until Heritage Festival. Cost: $3.50 each. John Kornilakis, of the **Old Town Restaurant**, has offered to pay the printing costs. Thanks, John.
- **PARKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY:** Two-hour parking on all paved areas was recommended to the Association and passed on to the city. Encourage commuters to park across the tracks, near the depot, or risk daily tickets. Encourage greater use of the 200-car free, no time-limit gravel lot behind the Caboose. The recommendations await action from the city.

Historic District Commission and City Building Department Endorsed

At the March meeting of the DTA, an unsolicited testimonial was given by area property owners to the value and worth of the above commission and department of our city. After several construction/renovation projects being temporarily red-tagged (stop-work orders), it was interesting to see such positive endorsement rise in such an unsolicited testimonial. Led by Gary McKeever and endorsed by still others, the consensus was that policies for restoration, repair, health and safety in our city are not unreasonable, just expensive. If you want to save this pile of bricks, they testified, you've got to do it "according to Hoyle". Permits, drawings and color samples are all it takes to get advice, help, recommendations and approval. This block sees fewer absentee landlord situations each year, and the recent restoration is first class. Owners are occupying their buildings for the first time in fifty years and cooperation between city officials and Depot Town property owners is most necessary. Any neighbors planning to make overtures downtown might wish to try them out on their more experienced neighbors at the April DTA meeting. Good planning and preparation pay off.



Daniels Does It Again

Show your home-town appreciation to graphic artist Joanne Daniels who recently completed the elegant BOOMER DAZE logotype for the DTA Retail Merchants. Joanne has been a continuous supporter of Depot Town projects both through her participation and through her craft. The new OLIVER'S ALIBI and SIDETRACK logos are also Joanne's handiwork. Many thanks, Joanne. We appreciate your expertise.

Drawings by Gary Markley

Gary Markley has been living in Depot Town for a couple of years now over on Maple Street. He's a 33-year-old Vietnam vet who just finished a degree in technical illustration at Washtenaw Community College. Gary made prints of these drawings to sell at his booth during last year's Heritage Festival. Recently he has been working at Sun Graphics as an illustrator and his work is on display in the Old Town Hall Heritage Art Gallery.

SIGNAL TOWER PLANS AT THE CABOOSE

Two train wrecks ago, a handsome, two-story, octagonal signal tower stood where now only a broken foundation lies; at the River-Cross northwest corner, next to the MCRR tracks.

An 1890's photograph found its way into a Preservation/Urban/Design drawing in the 1976 **Depot Town Study.** James Waite, preservationist architect for Colonial Williamsburg, was entranced by the romantic structure and commenced to draw up working plans for the reconstruction of that edifice. DTA voted to pay $100 for those drawings and they are now on display at the Caboose.

Short range plans hope to see the tower in place for ARTRAIN. Less optimistic neighbors question the expense, property ownership, local ordinances, and legal considerations. Some folks are still asking those questions about the new sidewalks, the Caboose, the Farmers' Market and the Heritage Festival. Looks like another railroad job for Depot Town. Climb on board the train of creative optimism! We may see that signal tower sooner than the nay-sayers think.

A Depot Town Calendar Summer of '81

Stay home this summer! We'll bring it to Ypsilanti for you.

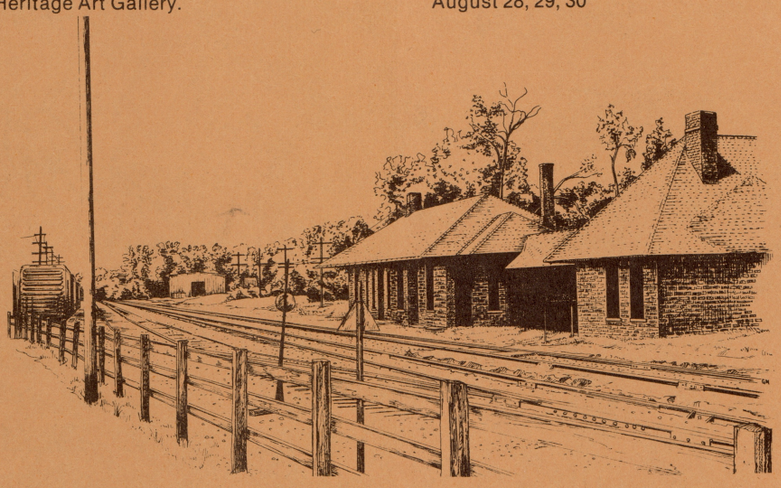
MICHIGAN ARTRAIN May 29-June 2

BOOMER DAZE BEGIN May 30

THE YPSILANTI GOVERNOR'S CUP
Ford Lake Power Boat Races
June 20-21

DRUM CORPS INTERNATIONAL
August 14
Northern Regional Championships
Rynearson Stadium

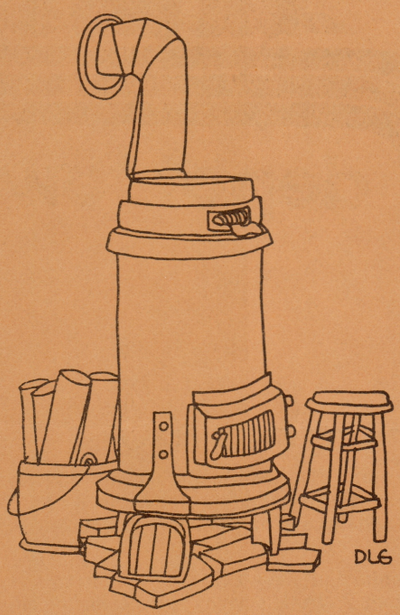
YPSILANTI YESTERYEAR HERITAGE FESTIVAL
August 28, 29, 30



Gary Markley 1981

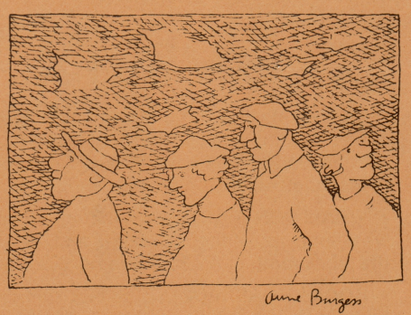
Visitors and Convention Bureau has Pledged $3,000 to Artrain

Your help is still needed for ARTRAIN's return to Depot Town. Join the planning committee each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Caboose.



Residential Design Class

Landscape architect and past DTA treasurer Linda Lemke offers to help you to learn to landscape your yard for spring. Principals of design, layout and plant materials taught by graduate landscape architect, ASLA. Limited enrollment — 6 weeks $30, 7-9 Tuesday. Classes begin April 1st. Call 485-8865 after 6 p.m.



Artrain Returns May 29-June 2

Activities planned so far:

BOOMER DAYS BEGIN
FARMERS' MARKET GRAND OPENING
BIG BAND CONCERT AT
THE FREIGHT HOUSE
YPSILANTI PLAYERS'
CABARET THEATRE
RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SOCCER TOURNAMENT
NEW LIBRARY
BOOKMOBILE UNVEILED
ANTIQUE YPSILANTI
POST CARD SHOW
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL'S
"POWER PLAY"
GOLDEN GARRISON CEREMONY
SCHOOL ART EXHIBITS
REGIONAL ARTISTS
TO DEMONSTRATE

Artrain committees still need your involvement in:

Finances and Fundraising
Protocol
Facilities
Education
Festival
Service
Promotion

FTD
Hon's
Flowers and Fancies
46 E. Cross 482-2124

RIVER ARTWORKS
custom framing
designer matting
lithographic prints
specialists with needlework and object framing
community gallery for local artists
Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 10:00-7:30 Fri.-Sat. 10:00-5:00
482-8785

Business is Picking Up

Since only six Depot Towners showed up for the Sunday, March 15th clean-up, they confined their activity to the area behind the buildings on the North Side of Cross Street. Although no dog owners showed, volunteers were able to fill half a dumpster with their deposits in the Market triangle. The DTA coffee wagon was removed from the Eagles back door and the entire alley-way and Market area were swept and picked up. Congratulations to those who brought their own tools and gave a few hours of their time. You can see the difference.

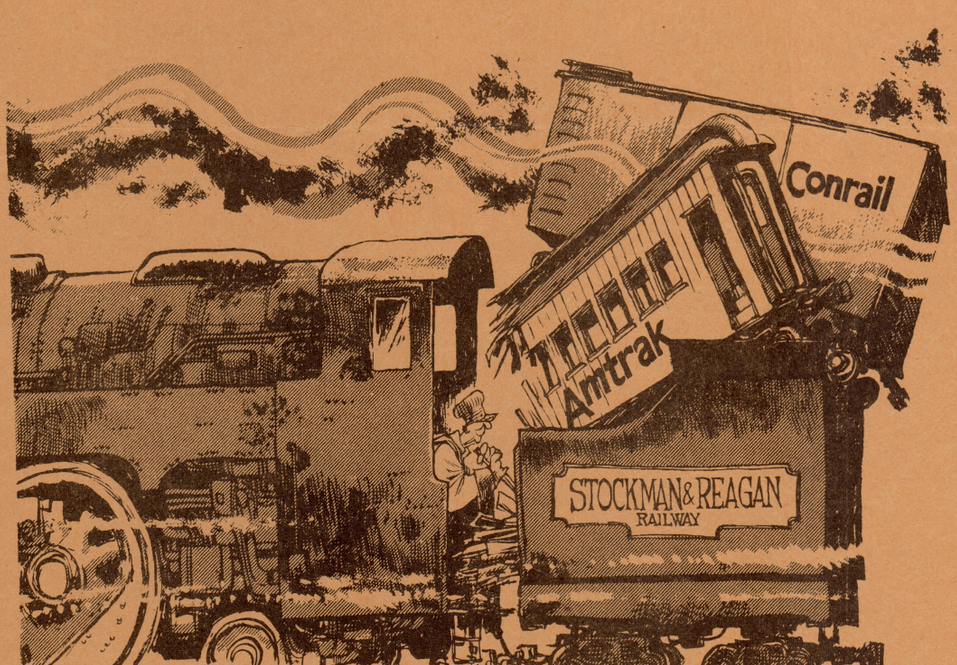
Such a Holland-type cleaning is still needed in other portions of the district: curbs and gutters need to be cleaned and the planters still hold last year's harvest. Volunteers will soon be sought for our seven on-street planting areas. Leave a note at the caboose if you wish to claim one for this growing season.

Ted's Auto Electric
307 N. River St. 483-1238

PILGRIM STAMP & COIN
18 E. Cross St. 483-5960

Jim MacDonald's Antiques
29 E. Cross 481-0555

THE RICHMOND NEWS LEADER COPYRIGHT BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE



DTA T-Shirts Reduced to $4

The bright red T-shirts (with "Stroh's" on the front and DTA Caboose logo on the back) are now available at the Caboose for only $4. (previously $5.00!) All sizes are available. These could make great gifts for out-of-towners.

Paperback Book Exchange Continues

Keep those books circulating. Free! Bring one - take one. Overhead — under the cupola.